

IDAHO NEWS RELEASE

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IDAHO POTATO PRODUCTION DOWN 8 PERCENT

Idaho's 2003 potato production is expected to total 123 million cwt, down 8 percent from last year's 133 million cwt. Planted acres of 360,000 and harvested acres of 358,000 are unchanged from previously set estimates. A statewide yield of 344 cwt (field-run basis) is down 14 cwt from a year ago. Yield in the 10 Southwestern counties, at 465 cwt, is up 10 cwt from 2002. Total production in this area is estimated at 11.6 million cwt from 25,000 harvested acres. In Idaho's "other counties," yield is estimated at 335 cwt, compared to 350 cwt a year ago. Area production from 333,000 harvested acres is expected to total 112 million cwt, 8 percent below last year's 121 million cwt.

Idaho sugarbeet production for 2003 is forecast at 6.09 million tons compared to 5.10 million tons a year ago. Yield of 29.4 tons per acre is up from last year's 24.3 tons. Both production and yield represent new records for the State. Harvested acreage of 207,000 is down from last year's 210,000 harvested acres.

Idaho's dry edible pea production of 588 thousand cwt is a decrease of 8 percent from the 640 thousand cwt produced in 2002. Lentil production of 599 thousand cwt is down 24 percent from last year's 792 thousand cwt. Austrian winter pea production of 112 thousand cwt is down 17 percent from 135 thousand cwt in 2002.

Nationally: Production of fall potatoes for 2003 is forecast at 414 million cwt, virtually unchanged from last year but 5 percent greater than the 2001 crop. Area harvested, at 1.09 million acres, is virtually unchanged from the July estimate but down 1 percent from last year. The average yield is forecast at 378 cwt per acre, 5 cwt above last year and 11 cwt greater than the 2001 season.

Sugarbeet production for the U.S. is expected to total 30.6 million tons, 10 percent above last year's production. Area for harvest, at 1.35 million acres, is down 1 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 22.8 tons per acre, 2.4 tons above 2002.

Dry edible pea production for the U.S. is expected to total 5.01 million cwt, up 18 percent from last year. Lentil production, at 2.29 million cwt, is down 9 percent from 2002. Austrian winter pea production is expected to total 144 thousand cwt, down 12 percent from last year.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call (208) 334-1507.